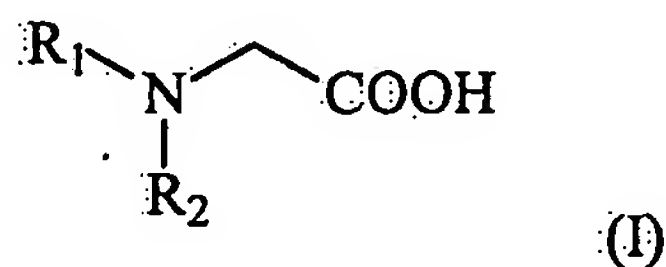


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method for the ~~non-therapeutic~~ treatment of poultry for the purpose of ~~reducing the conversion rate of the feed used to raise the poultry~~, which treatment comprises orally administering at least one glycine compound to the poultry, which glycine compound corresponds to the following formula (I) or to a salt thereof:



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 18, ~~preferably 1 to 6~~ carbon atoms or wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring;

wherein the method is selected from the group consisting of a method for the non-therapeutic treatment of poultry for the purpose of reducing the conversion rate of the feed used to raise the poultry and a method for reducing the incidence of ascites in poultry.

2. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, ~~or and~~ mixtures or salts thereof, ~~the glycine compound being preferably DMG or a salt thereof.~~

3. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is administered via the drinking water of the poultry.

4. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is administered via said feed.

5. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the poultry comprises broiler chickens.

6. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to poultry which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50, preferably smaller than 2.45 and more preferably smaller than 2.40 kg feed/kg body weight gain and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day, and preferably higher than 60 g/day.

7. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound thereof is administered in an amount of between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight of said feed, preferably in an amount of between 0.005 and 0.1 % by weight of said feed.

8. (canceled).

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

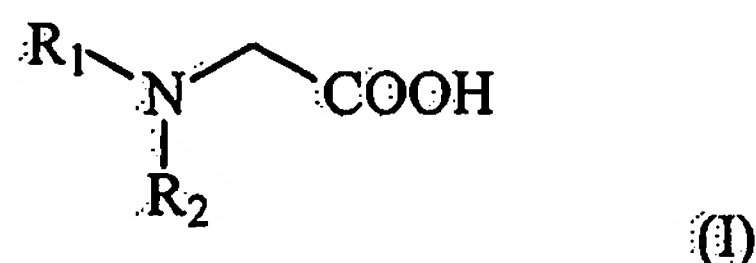
15. (canceled).

16. (canceled).

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (withdrawn-currently amended): A method for reducing the incidence of ascites in poultry, comprising orally administering a glycine compound to the poultry, which glycine compound corresponds to the following formula (I) or to a salt thereof:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 18, preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms or wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

20. (withdrawn-currently amended): The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, ~~or~~ and mixture or salts thereof, ~~the glycine compound being preferably DMG or a salt thereof.~~

21. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is administered via the drinking water of the poultry.

22. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is administered via said feed.

23. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 19, wherein the poultry comprises broiler chickens.

24. (withdrawn-currently amended): The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is administered in an amount of between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight of said feed, ~~preferably in an amount of between 0.005 and 0.1 % by weight of said feed.~~

25. (withdrawn-currently amended): The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to said poultry which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50, ~~preferably smaller than 2.45 and more preferably smaller than 2.40~~ kg feed/kg body weight gain and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day, ~~and preferably higher than 60 g/day.~~

26. (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is a method for the non-therapeutic treatment of poultry for the purpose of reducing the conversion rate of the feed used to raise the poultry.

27. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, and mixtures or salts thereof.

28. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the glycine compound is administered via the drinking water of the poultry.

29. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the glycine compound is administered via said feed.

30. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the poultry comprises broiler chickens.

31. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to poultry which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50 kg feed/kg body weight gain and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day.

32. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the glycine compound thereof is administered in an amount of between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight of said feed.

33. (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

34. (new): The method according to claim 19, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

35. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.